IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A post-gastrically available delayed release oral (DRO) pharmaceutical composition for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), said composition comprising as the sole therapeutically active ingredient a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC) in an amount effective to treat IBD, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or vehicle.

2. (Previously Presented) The DRO pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum.

3. (Previously Presented) The DRO pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide is HPMC.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The DRO pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, said composition being an enteric coated dosage form adapted to release its contents within the region of the jejunum to the colon.

7-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The DRO pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 in unit dose form containing about 400 to about 2000 mg of the polysaccharide per unit dose.

16-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) comprising contacting the disease mucosa of the gastrointestinal tract with a therapeutic amount of a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC) as the sole therapeutic agent.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the disease state is pouchitis.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the disease state is left sided ulcerative colitis.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the disease state is Crohn's disease.

27. (Currently Amended) A liquid enema for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) comprising xanthan gum in a concentration of about 0.4 to about 2% w/w (based on the composition) as a therapeutically active agent in an amount effect to treat inflammatory bowel disease, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or vehicle.

28-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A liquid enema for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), said composition comprising hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC) as the sole therapeutic active agent in an amount effective to treat inflammatory bowel disease, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or vehicle, said HPMC being present in a concentration of about 1 to about 20 % w/w based on the weight of the composition.

34-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The liquid enema according to Claim 33, wherein the HPMC is present in an amount of about 1 to 20g per unit dose.

38. (Previously Presented) The liquid enema according to Claim 27, wherein the xanthan gum is present as the sole therapeutically active agent.

39. (Previously Presented) The liquid enema according to Claim 27, wherein the xanthan gum is present in an amount of about 400 to 2000 mg per unit dose.

40-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the polysaccharide is HPMC.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the polysaccharide is administered in the form of an enteric coated dosage form adapted to release its contents within the region of the jejunum in the colon.

46. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) comprising contacting the disease mucosa of the gastrointestinal tract with a therapeutic amount of a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC) as the sole therapeutic agent, wherein said therapeutic agent is rectally administered in the form of a rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition which is a liquid enema.

47. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 46, wherein the polysaccharide is administered in the form of a composition comprising a liquid enema containing xanthan gum in a concentration of about 0.4 to about 2% w/w (based on the composition).

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the said polysaccharide is administered in the form of a composition comprised of a foam enema containing xanthan gum in a concentration of about 1.4 to about 2.5% w/w (based on the composition).

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said polysaccharide is administered in the form of a composition comprised of a liquid enema containing HPMC in a concentration of about 1 to about 20% w/w (based on the composition).

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the said polysaccharide is administered in the form of a composition comprised of a foam enema containing HPMC in a concentration of about 2.5 to about 25% w/w (based on the composition).

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said polysaccharide is administered in the form of a composition comprised of a rectally administrable composition comprised of xanthan gum in an amount of about 400 to about 2000 mg per unit dose.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said polysaccharide is administered in the form a rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition comprising HPMC in an amount of about 1 to about 20g per unit dose.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 46, wherein the disease state is pouchitis.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 46, wherein the disease state is left sided ulcerative colitis.

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 46, wherein the disease state is Crohn's disease.

56. (Previously Presented) The liquid enema according to Claim 33 , wherein the HPMC is in a concentration of about 5 to about 20 % w/w based on the composition.